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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 3, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the holiday week ended November 28 totaled an estimated 14.4 billion ton-miles, 7.0 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 48 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 852.6 billion ton-miles, 0.4 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended November 28 totaled 332,802 cars, 11.4 percent below 1980, and 23.0 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 13.4 percent in the East, 11.1 percent in the South, and 10.0 percent in the West.

Nineteen of the 21 commodity groups were down compared with the corresponding week a year ago, although coal loadings were up 6,080 cars, or 6.1 percent. All of the 21 groups declined from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended November 21 totaled 35,971 cars, up 8.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 65,154 trailers and/or containers, up 7.9 percent from last year.

Tne cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 47 weeks of the year was 1,552,864 cars, 2.6 percent higher than last year, and 2,820,743 trailers and/or containers, 2.6 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/28/81:

	Loadings in Week ended November 28, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,722	D	1,375	6.0	D	8,715	28.6
Other farm products	5,246	D	271	4.9	D	1,010	16.1
Metallic ores	18,632	D	7,321	28.2	D	7,973	30.0
Coal	105,940	I	6,080	6.1	D	30,841	22.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,507	D	2,759	26.9	D	3,206	29.9
Nonmetallic minerals	7,175	D	3,813	34.7	D	2,487	25.7
Grain mill products	11,103	D	3,021	21.4	D	3,241	22.6
Food and kindred products	12,564	D	1,813	12.6	D	2,931	18.9
Primary forest products	12,667	D	1,790	12.4	D	5,969	32.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	4,518	D	3,226	41.7	D	2,150	32.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	17,182	D	1,848	9.7	D	1,091	6.0
Chemicals and allied products	20,112	D	5,028	20.0	D	3,573	15.1
Petroleum products	4,441	D	343	7.2	D	1,094	19.8
Stone, clay and glass products	9,193	D	3,201	25.8	D	2,805	23.4
Coke	5,269	D	258	4.7	D	703	11.8
Metals and products	10,512	D	4,385	29.4	D	2,465	19.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	10,512	D	4,271	28.9	D	3,594	25.5
Waste and scrap materials	7,630	D	3,053	28.6	D	2,770	26.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,467	D	1,055	12.4	D	2,352	24.0
All other carloads	33,248	I	203	0.6	D	10,113	23.3
LCL traffic	162	D	62	27.7	D	59	26.7
Total Cars Loaded	332,802	D	42,610	11.4	D	99,142	23.0
Corresponding week of 1980	375,412						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (48 weeks)	20,173,844	20,958,768	D	3.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
47 Weeks cumulative	838.2	833.5	I	0.6
Week ended November 28	14.4	15.5	D	7.0
48 Weeks cumulative	852.6	849.0	I	0.4

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